STATE

Three high school students stabbed in after-school fight

Associated Press

NORTHGLENN — Three Northglenn High School students were hospitalized Friday when a dispute in a biology classroom spilled over into a knife fight in a nearby shopping-center parking lot.

Two of the victims were hospitalized at St. Anthony Central in serious but stable condition, while the third was less seriously injured with knife wounds to the chest and hands, officials said.

One of the injured students was a junior, and the other two were sophomores.

Police believe a small group of students intended to square off with another group in a fistfight until the second group produced knives. A broken knife blade was among evidence found by police at the scene, about four blocks from the school.

No arrests have been made, police said, but an investigation continues.

Police Sgt. Daryl Hollingsworth said the incident began with an argument in a sixth-hour biology class.

"Apparently a group of students was tossing something around the classroom, possibly part of a calculator, and it hit a female student," Hollingsworth said. "That made the boyfriend of the female student mad, and words were exchanged. They apparently made a deal, 'Meet me after school,' that sort of thing.

"They did meet to fight, near 104th and Huron, at about 3 p.m. One group brought knives, the other group didn't."

Hollingsworth said police were "looking for suspects from the group that brought the knives."

The fight was believed to have involved a total of five to 10 students, he said.

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"Keep God out of politics!"

God might have been okay when America was young, but hey — we've evolved! Who do these fanatics think they are, anyway? The Founding Fathers?

There's a question on everyone's mind these days — Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives alike. It was on voters' minds in November, when they gave one of the most stinging rebukes ever delivered an American President. Pollsters heard it over and over again . . .

"America is headed in the wrong direction. Something's got to change. "

But what? *What* needs to change? The party in power? The policy agenda? Will welfare or tax reform cure what's really ailing the core of America?

It's a lot deeper than that. And a lot more simple.

You'll find it in Nobel prize winner Alexander Solzhenitzyn's lament for his ailing homeland, Russia. "If I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.' "

America too has forgotten God. One heart, one life at a time.

Two centuries ago, patriot Daniel Webster said, "To preserve the government we must also preserve morals. Morality rests on religion; if you destroy the foundation . . . laws are a nullity and constitutions are waste paper."

Even our national security depends on spiritual health. President Samuel Adams once wrote that a moral people ". . . cannot be subdued; but once they lose their virtue they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." Benjamin Franklin agreed, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

Born again Watergate figure Chuck Colson describes the present crisis. "Courts strike down even perfunctory prayers, and we are surprised that schools, bristling with barbed wire, look more like prisons than prisons do.

"Universities reject the very idea of truth, and we are shocked when the best and the brightest of their graduates loot and betray.

"Celebrities mock the traditional family, even revile it as a form of slavery, and we are apalled at the human tragedy of broken homes and millions of unwed mothers.

"The media celebrate sex without responsibility, and we are horrified by sexual plagues.

"Our lawmakers justify the taking of innocent life in sterile clinics, and we are terrorized by the disregard for life in our blood-soaked streets.

"[Renowned author] C.S. Lewis described this irony a generation ago. 'We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst . . . we castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.'

"A generation of cultural leaders wants to live off the spiritual capital of its inheritance, while denigrating the ideals of its ancestors. It squanders a treasure it no longer values."

But this treasure isn't some civics lesson or vote for a political party. And it has nothing to do with the separation of church and state; it isn't about naming a state religion or ending religious freedom. It's about returning to the God of our forefathers. And that's something we must do it one life at a time. Starting with our own.

It takes a simple act to put your life into harmony with God. Jesus said He came to save sinners. He said He was the mediator between God and man. If you believe He is who He claims to be, ask for His forgiveness. Ask Him to come into your life and make you who He wants you to be. Next, don't wait until Sunday; go to your local church, ask for the pastor and share what you've just done. If the pastor is excited and wants to help you grow in your new relationship, great! If not, excuse yourself and find another church that does.

You'll discover how America's true greatness, the *real* Spirit of '76, will also transform your life.

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